

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS***Sub-Saharan Africa***Vol VIII No 114****13 June 1978****EAST AFRICA****ETHIOPIA**

Ethiopian Spokesman: Cubans Will Play No Further Role in Eritrea [London THE OBSERVER 11 Jun]	B 1	1/A5
Baghdad Radio Reports New Front Opened in Eritrea	B 1	1/A5
Ethiopian Moves Cited	B 1	1/A5
Eritrean Spokesman Urges End to Soviet, Cuban Aid to Ethiopia	B 2	1/A6
OBSERVER Correspondent Views Situation in Eritrea [11 Jun]	B 2	1/A6
FRG Paper Interviews Oromo Liberation Front Official [Frankfurt FRANKFURTER RULDSCHAU 10 Jun]	B 4	1/A8

SOMALIA

DANAB: WSLF Inflicts Losses on Ethiopian Troops	B 5	1/A9
---	-----	------

TANZANIA

UHURU Condemns French 'Neocolonialism' in Africa	B 6	1/A10
--	-----	-------

CENTRAL AFRICA**CONGO**

Spokesman Announces Income Tax as Part of Austerity Plan	C 1	1/A11
--	-----	-------

ZAIRE

London OBSERVER: Mobutu Recruiting Mercenaries for New Army [11 Jun]	C 1	1/A11
Foreign Commissioner Answers Critics of Foreign Troops	C 2	1/A12
Brussels: 200 Arrested in Shaba Province	C 4	1/A14
Officials Work To Restore Normality to Kolwezi	C 4	1/A14
Mines Commissioner Visits Kolwezi Installations	C 5	1/B1
Mobutu Orders Funds Released for Kolwezi	C 5	1/B1
French Instructors To Train Paratroop Battalions	C 5	1/B1

WEST AFRICA**THE GAMBIA**

Somali Party Official Arrives for Talks	D 1	1/B2
---	-----	------

GHANA

Acheampong, Toure Propose W. African Union	D 1	1/B2
--	-----	------

GUINEA-BISSAU

FRETILIN Member Arrives With Message for Cabral D 1 1/B2

LIBERIA

President Tolbert To Visit PRC 19 June [NCNA] D 2 1/B3

MALI

Somali Official Advocates Creation of African Force D 2 1/B3

NIGERIA

Commentator Sees Danger of 'Recolonization' in Africa D 2 1/B3

TOGO

Somali Minister Visits Togo With Message From Siad Barre D 3 1/B4

FRG's Strauss Meets With President Eyadema D 3 1/B4

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Further Details of Frontline States' Communique on Namibia Talks E 1 1/B5

RHODESIA

Salisbury Comments on Carter's Annapolis Speech E 1 1/B5

Security Forces Kill 23 in Village Near Salisbury E 2 1/B6

Muzorewa, Sithole Reactions E 2 1/B6

SOUTH AFRICA

Sithole Addresses South African Press Club E 3 1/B7

NAMIBIA (SOUTH-WEST AFRICA)

SWAPO Expels 11 for 'Counterrevolutionary' Plotting E 3 1/B7

SWAPO Denounces Paris Summit on Africa E 3 1/B7

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Offers To Help Solve Shaba Problem E 4 1/B8

Item 856-B-9

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23

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ETHIOPIA

ETHIOPIAN SPOKESMAN: CUBANS WILL PLAY NO FURTHER ROLE IN ERITREA

LD111150Y London THE OBSERVER in English 11 Jun 78 p 1 LD

[By Colin Legum]

[Excerpt] The Cubans are openly opposing Soviet policy in Africa, for the first time since they launched their joint venture in Angola in 1976.

Fidel Castro has flatly refused to let his troops support the Ethiopian offensive in Eritrea. The Russians now find themselves the only foreign backers for the Ethiopian Army's attempt to crush the stubborn Eritrean liberation forces.

Libya and South Yemen, Ethiopia's other two allies, both support the Cuban stand. The South Yemenis have withdrawn their military elements--mainly drivers of armed vehicles and some pilots--from Eritrea.

Havana has not yet officially announced Cuba's disengagement from Eritrea, but a spokesman for the Ethiopian military regime has confirmed that Cuban troops will play no further role in Eritrea.

BAGHDAD RADIO REPORTS NEW FRONT OPENED IN ERITREA

JN111645Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Asmara--The forces of the Ethiopian regime have opened a new front in the fighting currently going on in Eritrea. The forces of this regime have launched a major offensive from (?Tegre) region, which adjoins Eritrea. This was stated by a spokesman for the (?Tegre) Liberation Front--one of five Ethiopian movements opposing the regime in this region. The spokesman said that thousands of the soldiers of Mengistu Haile Mariam's regime are participating in the offensive.

Reports from the battlefield say that the objective of these operations is to gain control of the Eritrean city of (Manbira), which is now under the control of the Eritrean revolution. Furthermore, the Ethiopian regime seeks to reduce pressure on the encircled Ethiopian garrison near Barentu, which is located on the supply route between the Eritrean capital of Asmara and the Sudanese border.

Mengistu has announced recently that his forces have failed to break the siege imposed by the Eritrean revolutionaries on the Eritrean capital of Asmara.

Ethiopian Moves Cited

JN111802Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 11 Jun 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 11 June--The Ethiopian regime has concentrated 25,000 soldiers around the city of Biaghela, capital of Tecarai province, in preparation for an offensive against the liberated areas of Eritrea.

An INA correspondent in Khartoum reports today that the Ethiopian Army established an airbase in the village of (Karkanbar), 300 km from Asmara, to launch air strikes against the liberated cities of Eritrea and to watch the movements of the revolutionaries in Eritrea.

The Eritrean revolutionaries killed 125 Ethiopian soldiers, took 352 others prisoner and injured great numbers in battles in the areas of (Tadir), (Mai), (Ontal), (Akbasahama), (Belgo) and (Hawuzi). They destroyed five personnel carriers and captured six automatic cannons and large quantities of equipment. They also returned 500 cattle, which Ethiopian gendarmes had stolen earlier from the citizens of the province.

ERITREAN SPOKESMAN URGES END TO SOVIET, CUBAN AID TO ETHIOPIA

JN112220Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 11 Jun 78 JN

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 11 June--Mohamed Osman Abubaker, representative of the Eritrean Liberation Front-People's Liberation Forces in the gulf region, has affirmed the front's adherence to its demand of complete independence for Eritrea and its rejection of the autonomy plan suggested by Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Ethiopian military council. Abubaker said that the front again calls upon the Soviet Union and Cuba to cease their support for expansionist Ethiopia and calls upon those countries which support the Eritrean revolution to double their military and political support to enable it to confront the genocide campaign launched by the military junta in Addis Ababa.

OBSERVER CORRESPONDENT VIEWS SITUATION IN ERITREA

LD111152Y London THE OBSERVER in English 11 Jun 78 p 6 LD

[By Richard Trench]

[Text] Mekkerka, Eritrea--The battle for Asmara has begun. After two weeks of heavy fighting, which began on 16 May, the Ethiopian Army pushed Eritrean guerrillas, who surround the capital, 20 miles to the west.

But it failed to capture Himberti, the largest town close to Asmara. More significantly, it has so far failed to break the stranglehold of the Eritrean liberation forces on Eritrea's besieged capital.

'We fight each night,' Netsareab Teswoldemedhim, Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) political commissar for the Asmara region, told me during the height of the fighting. 'It is getting harder and harder. The less territory Ethiopia holds, the more she concentrates her troops in Asmara and the four other garrisons she holds. We are on permanent duty and we have not slept for days.'

Were they fighting Russians and Cubans? 'No. We know there are Cubans inside Asmara, but they are not taking part in the fighting.'

The Ethiopians employed 20,000 troops for their long-awaited offensive to break out of Asmara. Their main forces overran and occupied Barentu to the west. They took three key villages in the Eritrean lines around Asmara--Zazega, Addi Contzi and Ad Taclai--and also threatened Himberti.

Two months previously, Ethiopian troops had broken out of the capital to the south-west, capturing the village of Laguen, and extended their positions around the Digge dam, Asmara's main water supply. But they too failed to capture Himberti.

In the last two weeks of May, there were nightly battles around Mekkerka, Zazega and Himberti.

The countryside around Himberti is almost perfect terrain for the guerrillas. All around them is a disjointed landscape of high mountains, deep ravines, vertical rock faces and treacherous winding tracks, along which food is carried to the frontline by militia units with all the ability of mountain goats.

The fighting was as harsh as the land. The Eritreans were exposed on three sides. Between Mekerka and Zazega, the opposing combatants' trenches were only 100 yards apart.

For the middle-aged-looking youths on the frontline, life has been reduced to a troglodyte existence in trenches, redoubts, air-raid shelters and cliff faces, honeycombed by caves and dugouts.

The Eritreans have an infinite capacity to dig holes and make snares. You realize in the time you spend with them their uncompromising nationalism, their harsh combination of rural nationalist and Marxist ideology, their refusal to bow down to the wishes of their backers and their persistence in fighting--no matter how much the great powers may object--until finally, they, a world grown tired of their destabilizing ability grants them the independence they dream of. [sentence as published]

From the village of Deda I had a panoramic view of the Ethiopian attempt to take Himberti from the north. At dusk, the whole sky was lit up by flares, artillery, mortar bombs and tracer bullets. From the ridge on which Deda stands, I watched the Ethiopian flares dropping gently down and calculated from this where the Ethiopians were making their attack.

At times the fighting--invariably between 7 pm and 8 pm and between 4 am and 5 am--was so intense that the sound of the small arms bouncing around in the mountains resembled a train going over a level crossing.

This went on until 29 May, when an ELF counterattack retook Ad Taclai and pushed the Ethiopians back from Himberti.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) stopped an Ethiopian breakout around Weki Diba and held the Asmara-Cheren road. By then it was clear that the Ethiopian offensive had run out of steam.

The EPLF leader, Ramadan Mohamed Nour, said: 'They have tried to break the siege of Asmara and widen the fighting area around Barentu to force a retreat of Eritrean forces. But they have failed completely.'

The fighting around Asmara was the first serious military threat to the Eritreans since the rival guerrilla movements united under a joint four-man command. But most of the fighting was confined to the ELF sector, on the western side of the city.

Not until the last days of May, when Ethiopian troops tried to advance down the road to Cheren, did the EPLF take part. In spite of the unity agreement, suspicion between the two groups is still strong. Around Barentu, the ELF and EPLF forces are fighting together, but there is still little cooperation on the Asmara front.

Throughout April and early May, I watched a steady stream of Russian transport planes land at Asmara airport, some days at the rate of one every 15 minutes.

What were they carrying? 'I don't know', said Teswoldemedhim. 'All I know is that they are not carrying ordinary passengers.'

The Ethiopian buildup inside the city was matched by an Eritrean buildup outside. New trenches were built. I watched new recruits, armed with everything from Kalashnikovs to old Lee Enfield rifles, make their way to the front, their normal six-month training period reduced to two months.

But the expected Ethiopian offensive, when it came, proved weaker than had been feared. The Ethiopian military regime, the Dergue, deprived of full Cuban support for a military solution in Eritrea, was forced to rely on its own troops, without the technical and logistic support that made possible the victory in the Ogaden earlier this year.

As a result, the offensive degenerated into a series of sharp nightly attacks, without staying power, allowing the Eritrean guerrillas to redraw their lines, slow down the Ethiopians and finally stop them.

But the cost has been high. An official of the Eritrean Red Cross and Red Crescent society said the casualties 'must run into hundreds, perhaps even more.'

FRG PAPER INTERVIEWS OROMO LIBERATION FRONT OFFICIAL

DW120825Y Frankfurt FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 10 Jun 78 p 2 DW

[Dirk Cornelsen interview with Fatansa Dima of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Oromo Liberation Front; date and place not given]

[Text] The Eritrean liberation movements in Ethiopia and the Western Somali Liberation Front are not the only ones fighting for their independence; so is the Oromo Liberation Front, which is rather unknown in Europe. It consists of the largest Ethiopian tribe. FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU talked to a member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Oromo Liberation Front. His report on the "criminal military regime" in Addis Ababa, which is supported by the Soviet Union and the GDR, and on the "red terror," is consistent with an Amnesty International report.

FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU [FR]: How is the situation in Ethiopia after the revolt against Emperor Haile Selassie and the military takeover in 1974? What has changed and what is the same?

Dima: The monarchy was eliminated and the country nationalized. Most of the country was given to the former tenants, who must now pay rent to the state. But as before the state is controlled by the old ruling class.

FR: Of whom does the ruling class consist?

Dima: Of officers, high officials, managers of state farms and plants, and of some factory owners. Most of them belong to the Amhara tribe, which subdued the other tribes within the borders of today's Ethiopia with the help of the Italians early this century.

FR: What is the current political situation in Ethiopia?

Dima: Political rights no longer exist, even less than under Haile Selassie. The criminal military regime and its accomplices have no base among the people, not even among the Amharas.

FR: Could you explain that in more detail?

Dima: The revolt against Haile Selassie was borne by the tribes colonized by the Amharas, that is, by the Oromo, the Eritreans, the Sidama and others. Most of their demands were not fulfilled by the military regime, particularly not the demand for self-determination. In order to stay in power the regime must take reprisals. Twenty to 50 persons are being murdered daily in Addis Ababa alone, particularly students, intellectuals and workers. The same oppression is taking place in the country. Militant peasant leaders are being either killed or arrested. The victims are particularly Oromo, Eritrean, Somali, Wallayita, Hadiya-Kambata and Gurage tribe members.

FR: Who is the target of this kind of state terror?

Dima: Everybody who is suspected of opposing the regime.

FR: How many people were murdered and how many arrested?

Dima: The number of the murdered is unknown. The number of political prisoners is estimated to be 100,000.

FR: Can you say anything about the struggle of the Oromos and their liberation movement and its objectives now?

Dima: The Oromos are the greatest people in Ethiopia, numbering 18 million among about 30 million. They have always resisted domination by the Amharas. We consider the Amharas settlers in our territory, just as the whites are in Rhodesia. The resistance movement experienced the greatest upward surge in the sixties. The Oromo Liberation Front was founded in 1973. It has regular guerrillas and a militia made up of peasants.

FR: Can you tell us something about the nature of your struggle and about your goals?

Dima: We are waging a political and military struggle. What we seek is the self-determination of the Oromo people and the establishment of an independent state of Oromia. More than half of Ethiopia's area is inhabited by Oromos, this being about the size of the Federal Republic and the GDR, Belgium, Denmark, and the Netherlands lumped together.

FR: Are you receiving any support from foreign forces?

Dima: At the moment we do not receive any aid from outside. We are financed by contributions by the Oromo people. We capture our weapons from our enemy.

FR: Can you briefly describe the nature of oppression of the Oromos by the Amharas as you see it?

Dima: We are being oppressed culturally, religiously, socially and politically. Amharic is the official language of the country, even though the Amharas account for only 15 percent of the people of Ethiopia.

SOMALIA

DANAB: WSLF INFLECTS LOSSES ON ETHIOPIAN TROOPS

LD101646Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Text] When enemy forces tried to launch an attack on the base of the freedom fighters at (Hero Gell) near Jijiga on 5 June the Western Somali Liberation Front [WSLF] commandos killed 401 troops of the Abyssinian colonialists and captured 350 machineguns.

While the battle was going on, the Abyssinian troops killed 51 civilians, including children and old people.

This report, which was carried in DANAB this morning, also said that toward the end of May, in an encounter between the freedom fighters and the Abyssinian colonialist forces at the village of (Guryo Sagaro) between Kebri Dehar and Shilabo, the enemy suffered heavy losses in men and material. The report adds that the Abyssinian troops scattered in flight, and on their way barbarically killed 49 civilians and shot 140 camels, 1,000 goats, 12 head of cattle and 3 donkeys.

DANAB also reports that on 7 June the Somali-Abo freedom fighters killed 60 and wounded many Abyssinian troops and captured 20 machineguns in an encounter between Negele and (Dabartu).

TANZANIA

UHURU CONDEMNS FRENCH 'NEOCOLONIALISM' IN AFRICA

LD091232Y Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 0400 GMT 9 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Text] The party daily, UHURU, in its editorial today comments on the Franco-African summit conference held in Paris a fortnight ago in which the leaders of France and French-speaking Africa agreed to establish the so-called pan-African peace-keeping force. UHURU says France convened this summit in a bid to consolidate its neocolonialism in Africa. It was France which suggested at the summit that such a peace-keeping force be set under Western powers. And in order to insure that its efforts did not prove futile, Paris quickly sought cooperation from other imperialist powers like U.S., Britain and others. As a result of these summit deliberations, it is reported that 1,500 troops forming the nucleus of the peace-keeping force had been sent from Morocco to Zaire, the southern Shaba Province of which was the scene of a serious uprising. UHURU notes that 1,000 other troops were to come from Togo, Gabon, Senegal and Ivory Coast, all of which were former French African colonies. Next Monday another conference similar to the Paris summit will be held in Belgium to continue with the deliberation of the launching of the pan-African force.

The reasons advanced by imperialist countries in Africa in this issue, UHURU says, are firstly African independence, and secondly the so-called Russian and Cuban penetration in Africa. The truth, the editorial says, is that Africa's independence will be safeguarded by Africans. There cannot be any other truth. Imperialism can never safeguard Africa's independence, for the work of imperialism is to safeguard its own interests--those of exploitation.

The party daily notes that the intrigues used to involve black stooges of imperialism in forming the so-called African peace-keeping force are aimed at infecting an organ which will be used by imperialism, not only in safeguarding imperialistic interests, but also to belittle, suppress, kill and deprive Africans of their independence. UHURU condemns forthwith this treacherous act of selling Africa to endless neocolonialism. African people must unite, stand firm and use all forces at their disposal to condemn and prevent the devilish act of instituting a force that will perpetuate slavery in African soil.

SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCES INCOME TAX AS PART OF AUSTERITY PLAN

LD122242Y Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 2045 GMT 12 Jun 78 LD

[Summary] The Congolese Labor Party Military Committee has been meeting since last Friday with President Yhombi-Opango in the chair. At the end of the meeting today the committee spokesman read a report:

[Begin recording] The Congo has very bad economic and financial difficulties. The people are going to have to work hard and to make further sacrifices. In view of the situation, certain measures are to be introduced. A national solidarity fund is to be created and supplied by a national solidarity tax. To this end, income tax will be withheld from all salaries as follows: 10 percent from all salaries of FR30,000 or less per month; 20 percent from salaries higher than FR30,000 per month. Political leaders and secretaries general who must have a deeper understanding of the crisis will also have 20 percent deducted from their official salaries. In 1978 the deductions will be in July and October, and in 1979 in January, April, July and October. The application of the taxes will be determined by the staff of the administration.

Essential commodities will be supplied to rural areas as soon as possible. It is hoped that the spiraling prices of foodstuffs can thus be halted.

The fund will be managed jointly by the ministers of planning, and finance and the director of the Congolese Investment Bank. The minister of finance will report on all deposits to and withdrawals from the fund.

People must become aware of the seriousness of the situation and the need for austerity. They must adopt a suitable attitude and help wipe out social inequalities. [end recording]

ZAIRE

LONDON OBSERVER: MOBUTU RECRUITING MERCENARIES FOR NEW ARMY

LD111016Y London THE OBSERVER in English 11 Jun 78 p 1 LD

[By Paul Ellman]

[Text] Salisbury--In a bid to bolster confidence among whites responsible for the mining industry in Shaba Province, President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire is recruiting an army of European and South African mercenaries.

He apparently intends them to be the core of the 'strike force' whose formation he announced on Friday. The president indicated that this force would be used for revenge raids against Angola, the base for the recent invasion of Shaba by Katangese gendarmes.

Mercenary officers who served in Zaire in the 1960s are now in Europe recruiting for the new army. One senior recruiter told the observer he expected to sign up 2,000 men from Italy, France, Switzerland and Belgium in the coming weeks.

The operation is being coordinated by Major Mike Hoare, former commander of the notorious Sixth Commando, which helped President Mobutu to impose authority after he seized power in the 1965 coup.

Meetings between Hoare and other mercenary officers were held last weekend and during last week at his home on the south coast of Natal before the recruiters flew to Europe.

One recruiter said that President Mobutu had allocated millions of dollars to finance the mercenary army. Although Zaire's national purse is somewhat slim, especially with the loss of mineral revenue since the Shaba invasion, the president has not seen his personal fortune suffer. It is estimated that one-third of Zaire's national income finds its way into his hands.

President Mobutu has decided to recruit these white mercenaries because the pan-African force sent to Shaba to replace French legionnaires and Belgian paratroops is not thought likely to soothe white fears over further Kolwezi-type massacres.

Apart from the 2,000 being sought in Europe, it is believed that another 300 mercenaries will be engaged on the basis of their loyalty to Major Hoare. Britain is unlikely to feature in the recruiters' itinerary; British mercenaries have not enjoyed high esteem after their poor performance in the 1975 Angola civil war.

President Mobutu is likely to face bitter criticism from other African states for his decision to turn once again to white mercenaries to prop up his regime. The activities of mercenaries in Zaire and southern Sudan prompted the Organisation of African Unity to adopt a convention outlawing their use on the continent.

FOREIGN COMMISSIONER ANSWERS CRITICS OF FOREIGN TROOPS

LD100454Y Kinshasa AZAP in French 1900 GMT 9 Jun 78 LD

[Text] AZAP, Kinshasa--Zaire, as an independent country, has the right to appeal to friendly countries to defend its sovereignty when it is threatened by external aggression. Making use of this right, Zaire has approached friendly countries, after the attack on Kolwezi, with two aims: first, to save human lives and, second, to prevent the rebels from destroying the factories in that town.

These points were mentioned by Citizen Umba-Di-Lutete, political commissioner and state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation, in a communication to the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Kinshasa, whom he called together today at the Red Salon of his department.

Citizen Umba revealed that the Zairian security services had intercepted a message from rebel leader Mbumba, who was in Angola, in which he told his troops "to kill as many foreigners as possible, to destroy as many economic objectives as possible and to take to Angola as many young Zairians as possible."

The state commissioner stated that Zaire has never committed aggression against another country. It has always been Zaire which was attacked. He said that from 1965 to 1975 Zaire had no problems; everything was going well for its economy and population. Since the Russian-Cuban coalition installed itself in Angola in 1975, however, it began to create difficulties for Zaire by arming on two occasions Zaire's misguided sons, the former Katanga gendarmes, so that they could sow disorder and desolation in the country.

As far as the African security force is concerned, Citizen Umba stated that it would be materially impossible for this force to include all African states. He said the OAU, one of whose main objectives is the liberation of Africa, has never succeeded in setting up a security force to fight colonialism in Zimbabwe and Namibia. The commissioner revealed that this force, which is not supposed to be permanent or institutionalized, has received the attention of only some African countries imbued with peace and justice. These countries share the same ideals and must be able to face up to aggression when it is committed against one of them.

If African countries are attacked by the Russians and the Cubans, it is certain that those which are under the thumb of the USSR and Cuba shall obviously not be able to send their troops to fight the Soviet Union, he exclaimed.

The commissioner wondered why Zaire is maligned because of this force, for it is well known that many African countries have troops in Angola to support the Luanda regime. Speaking about President Nyerere's attitude toward the African intervention force, Political Commissioner Umba said that the president of Tanzania believes he has to teach lessons to everybody, proclaims that he is fighting corrupt regimes and has been quick to forget that he is still in power only because of British troops. In fact, he said, President Nyerere, after meeting internal difficulties, had appealed for the help of British troops. Nyerere, he said, never refuses money from the same countries he calls corrupt bourgeois states.

In connection with this, Citizen Umba wondered how the money or foreign currency at the disposal of the OAU Liberation Committee is managed. Do the liberation movements receive the full amount or are they satisfied with just a few weapons given by certain states?

President Nyerere is therefore not in a good position to teach lessons to others, he concluded, especially Zaire, which has no moral or political lesson to learn from anybody or any critic.

On the other hand, the Tanzanian head of state believes that the Paris and Brussels meetings smack of colonialism, but then he himself attends the Commonwealth meetings. Is this not also colonialism? he wondered.

Speaking about the Cubans who are pretending to defend Angola against South Africa, the state commissioner wondered why the 23,000 Cubans of the Angolan armed forces never raised a finger when South African troops intervened and penetrated 300 km into Angolan territory. The South Africans left the field only after the accomplishment of their task, which was the destruction of camps of Namibian refugees. However, he continued, when there was trouble within the MPLA, an internal problem, peace was restored by the Cubans, and so it was a Soviet peace.

In conclusion, the state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation stated that the Soviet Union and Cuba want to subjugate Zaire. With the help of friendly countries, he said, we shall face up to this coalition.

In this context, on behalf of Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, president founder of the Popular Movement of the Revolution [MPR] and president of the republic, he thanked all the countries which had spontaneously hurried to Zaire's help when it was attacked for the second time. He paid particular tribute to the action of France, whose units of the Foreign Legion 2d Paratroop Regiment made an effective contribution to the recapture of Kolwezi, and to the active solidarity of Morocco, which did not hesitate an instant in hurrying to the aid of Zaire for the second time in succession.

Finally, the Zairian statesman asked the ambassadors to be Africa's spokesmen with their governments in order to help resolve Africa's difficulties.

Earlier, speaking about the attack on Kolwezi, Citizen Umba-Di-Lutete stated that the rebels profited by Guide Mobutu Sese Seko's instructions to the Zairian armed forces not to bother the peasants. The rebels infiltrated Kolwezi when it was guarded only by a battalion of 700 men. In fact, on 13 May, Kolwezi was fully occupied by the rebels and those who captured the airport destroyed every aircraft on the ground and seized an ammunition depot and military uniforms, Citizen Umba-Di-Lutete explained.

The state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation remarked that if Zaire did not want to hit back immediately after the invasion of Kolwezi, this was in order to learn about the feelings and objectives of the rebels and to know if other parts of Zaire, in particular Tshikapa, Songololo, etc, would not be attacked also.

Neighboring countries affected by this matter have been informed, Citizen Umba said. In fact, he recalled that the president founder of the MPR and the president of the republic has sent Citizen Lengema, roving ambassador, to the Zambian president to brief him on what is being prepared against Zaire. Similarly, the Department for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, he continued, also informed the Algerian ambassador to Zaire, and the Zairian ambassador to Algiers received instructions to inform the Algerian authorities.

Citizen Umba also mentioned his message which was passed to African ambassadors on board the Kamanyola on 20 February regarding a plot that was being prepared.

At the time of the Kolwezi events, Guide Mobutu Sese Seko did not fail to again dispatch Citizen Lengema to President Kaunda, who at the time was on a visit to London.

As a proof, after their defeat the rebels fled through Zambia to Angola. [sentence as received]

Citizen Ikole, Zaire's ambassador to Algeria, informed the Algerian authorities and gave them tangible evidence. He also informed the African ambassadors accredited to Algeria and gave them proof of the support given to the presence of so-called opponents in the Algerian capital.

BRUSSELS: 200 ARRESTED IN SHABA PROVINCE

LD092012Y Brussels Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 9 Jun 78 LD

[Text] About 200 people have been arrested in Shaba by the Zairian forces. They are suspected of complicity with the rebels of the Congolese National Liberation Front, according to travelers back from the mining province. These people have been arrested during various operations in Lubumbashi.

OFFICIALS WORK TO RESTORE NORMALITY TO KOLWEZI

LD101954Y Kinshasa AZAP in French 0950 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Kolwezi, 10 June, AZAP--The subregional military authority yesterday put motorized patrols into operation in order to normalize the situation in Kolwezi. The military police of the gendarmerie battalion have received two vehicles from the subregion which will make possible a patrol every hour of the day.

The military authorities, working in close collaboration with former subregional officials, are preparing for the return to normal commercial and social life. A document is being drawn up in the subregion which will insure the safety of private individuals, reorganize distribution and contain the trends toward price rises which are already making themselves felt.

MINES COMMISSIONER VISITS KOLWEZI INSTALLATIONS

LD102104Y Kinshasa AZAP in French 1750 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD

[Excerpts] Lubumbashi, AZAP--This afternoon Citizen Mbala Mbabu, state commissioner for mines, returned to Lubumbashi after a visit of several hours to the Gecamines installations in Kolwezi. During this visit, the head of the department of mines, who was accompanied by Col Ikansha Ikpa, Kolwezi subregional commissioner, was able to see the efficient resumption of activities in the extraction of the ore from the mines and pits and the treatment of the ore in the plants and concentrators.

Addressing Zairian cadres at the end of this series of visits, the head of the department of mines, who said that the aim of his visit to Kolwezi was to comfort the cadres and the local workers of Gecamines after the recent invasion of this town by rebels from Angola, said he is quite struck by their determination to insure the good operation of the Gecamines mining installations in Kolwezi, thus "hurling defiance to the invaders who believed they could close down the mining industry in Kolwezi."

"There is no desperate situation," the Zairian commissioner for mines said in conclusion, "but there are men who are in despair." He invited the Zairian cadres at Gecamines to be constantly courageous and to efficiently lead the workers in order that the enterprise may survive.

MOBUTU ORDERS FUNDS RELEASED FOR KOLWEZI

LD102004Y Kinshasa AZAP in French 0730 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Summary] By order of President Mobutu Sese Seko, it has just been decided to release the sum of 5 million Zaires to revive economic and commercial activities in Kolwezi.

FRENCH INSTRUCTORS TO TRAIN PARATROOP BATTALIONS

LD121858Y Kinshasa AZAP in French 1526 GMT 12 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Text] AZAP, Kinshasa--France still attaches importance to participation in the training of elite cadres within the Zairian Armed Forces [FAZ]. In this sphere, French instructors will be made available to Zaire to carry out the intensive training of two new paratroop battalions.

This was stated by the head of the French military mission in Zaire, Colonel Grass, after the audience granted to him late this morning by Brig Gen Eluki Monga Aundu, the state secretary for national defense.

Colonel Grass also revealed that they discussed the latest Shaba war, which proved once again the excellence of relations between the FAZ and the French Armed Forces, whose (?armed conduct) constitutes eloquent testimony.

THE GAMBIA

SOMALI PARTY OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR TALKS

PA092359Y Paris AFP in French 1701 GMT 9 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Banjul, 9 June (AFP)--Mr Ahmed Mahmoud, a member of the Central Committee of the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, has arrived in Banjul, where he was greeted by Mr Alieu Badara Njie, vice president of The Gambia. No announcement has been released on the talks the special envoy of Somalia's President Siad Barre held with the Gambian vice president, who was substituting for Sir Dawda Jawara, president of the Republic of Gambia, who is currently on a tour of Europe.

GHANA

ACHEAMPONG, TOURE PROPOSE W. AFRICAN UNION

LD092020Y Accra GNA in English 1625 GMT 9 Jun 78 LD

[Text] Accra, June 9, GNA--Ghana and Guinea have agreed to prepare the grounds for the promotion of meaningful unity among West African states. This was the outcome of talks here yesterday between Ghanaian head of state General Ignatius Acheampong and Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

The president had made a five-hour stop-over on his way home from a four-day state visit to Togo.

A statement issued after the talks said the two leaders further agreed that the creation of effective unity among a core of African nations held better prospects for the rapid unification of the entire continent. They proposed as a first step a union of some West African states, which would gradually embrace other countries in the subregion.

The statement said the two recalled the important role which the defunct Ghana-Guinea-Mali union, formed in the early sixties by the late president Kwame Nkrumah, President Toure and late president Modibo Keita, played in the rapid emancipation of Africa, and stressed the need for a widened union in the modern African context.

They promised to keep in constant touch on the matter, the statement added.

GUINEA-BISSAU

FRETILIN MEMBER ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR CABRAL

PA091520Y Paris AFP in English 1512 GMT 9 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Bissau, June 9 (AFP)--A member of the Central Committee of the Timorese leftist liberation movement FRETILIN, Rogerio Lobato, has arrived here with a personal message from the president of the East Timor Republic, Nicolau Lobato, for Guinea-Bissau President Luis Cabral.

Mr Rogerio Lobato, who is commander of the East Timorese Armed Liberation Forces, had a meeting earlier with Cape-Verde Islands President Aristide Pereira during a short stopover en route from Luanda.

LIBERIA

PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO VISIT PRC 19 JUNE

OW111205Y Peking NCNA in English 1200 GMT 11 Jun 78 OW

[Text] Peking, 11 Jun (HSINHUA)--At the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency William Richard Tolbert, president of the Republic of Liberia, will pay a state visit to China, starting from June 19.

MALI

SOMALI OFFICIAL ADVOCATES CREATION OF AFRICAN FORCE

PAL00020Y Paris AFP in French 1500 GMT 9 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Bamako, 9 Jun (AFP)--Mr Omar Arteh Ghalib, minister of state for foreign affairs [title as received] of Somalia, arrived in Bamako on Wednesday and left this morning for Lome.

Mr Ghalib stated before his departure that he conveyed a message from President Siad Barre to President Moussa Traore and that he held very useful talks with Malian officials on relations between Mali and Somalia, African affairs and the preservation of independence and unity on the continent.

Mr Ghalib stressed that "African problems should be resolved by African leaders themselves." "This is why," he said, "I endorse the idea of creating an African force. We made this suggestion to the Organization of African Unity a long time ago."

Citing the example of Soviet and Cuban forces "invited" to resolve an African problem (that of the Ogaden), the Somali minister stated that "it opened a dangerous path for Africa." He added: "We believe that it is a dangerous precedent. We should not invite the superpowers or other countries to solve our problems. We should not lose the independence that we have won after so much bloodshed and fighting."

NIGERIA

COMMENTATOR SEES DANGER OF 'RECOLONIZATION' IN AFRICA

LD101154Y Lagos International Service in English 0730 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD

[(Joe Owakedi) commentary]

[Text] General Obasanjo's denunciation of all forms of foreign military operations in Africa should be a clear indication of the resentment with which reasonable African heads of state view the foreign military presence in the continent. There is no doubt that a dangerous situation is beginning to manifest itself on the African Continent. According to reports, there are a total of 14,000 French troops in various areas of Africa, notably in Chad, Mauritania, Morocco and Zaire. Similar combined Soviet-Cuban communist forces numbering well over 34,000 are stationed in Angola, Ethiopia and Mozambique. The serious implication of this occupation has been that military adventurism by foreign powers on the flimsiest excuse has become a constant practice in Africa. The impression being widely given is that African states are to be blamed for the present shameless postcolonial intervention in the continent. One reason attributed to this is that these foreign troops are invited by the smaller African nations, who are incapable of defending themselves against aggression. An additional point being made is that many of the countries in Africa had failed to manage their [passage indistinct].

There is that feeling that European financial and business stakes in Africa are being threatened by the constant social unrest in the continent. For example, the recent Franco-Belgian intervention in Shaba Province of Zaire arose out of such economic considerations. France-Belgian investments in that area are estimated at about \$25 million, about 17 million naira. In the years to come uranium supplies from Shaba could prove very important for the European Community's expanding energy program in the face of dwindling supplies from the United States and Canada, and more especially for France, which has decided to embark on a massive program of nuclear energy. It is, therefore, not surprising that the French have taken the leading role in the recent military intervention. After all, there are fewer French civilians in Shaba than in Belgium [as heard].

On the political side, France, too, is leading NATO-planned operations for the military and political penetration of the continent, on the pretext of trying to ease tension across the continent. A top meeting of some NATO states is currently being held in Paris to decide on the setting up of a so-called pan-African antiaggression force that would check the increasing Soviet and Cuban influence in the continent. The plan includes also the formation and consolidation of a nuclear belt involving the racist regime in South Africa. The intention is to polarize the continent into ideological lines bordering on Soviet and American influences. The long-term implication of it would be to frustrate efforts being made to liberate Zimbabwe and South Africa. These are clear evidence of the forces of colonialism and divisionism that are at work now in Africa.

It is in this connection that General Obasanjo's concern should be considered real by all African nations. Africa is losing both men and wealth to foreigners. It should be remembered that colonization came mainly through superiority in arms. If Africans fail to impose upon themselves the necessary self-discipline to solve their problems, recolonization might not be a fanciful idea. Many African nations are ready to come to the aid of other friendly troubled African nations if properly requested. Nigeria, for example, has already expressed her willingness to send peace-keeping forces to any part of Africa under the auspices of the OAU or the United Nations. The OAU should not watch helplessly while foreign troops roam Africa at will.

TOGO

SOMALI MINISTER VISITS TOGO WITH MESSAGE FROM SIAD BARRE

PA122008\ Paris AFP in French 1515 GMT 12 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Lome, 12 June (AFP)--Somali Foreign Minister Omar Arteh Ghalib [title as received] was received this weekend in Pya (northern Togo) by President Eyadema, to whom he delivered a message from President Mohamed Siad Barre.

After the meeting, the Somali minister told the press that Togo and Somalia shared views on the current African problems. Concerning the situation in the Horn of Africa, he denounced the presence of Soviet and Cuban troops alongside the Ethiopian forces in Ogaden, adding that the Africans themselves should find the solutions to their problems. He added that the fighting in Ogaden had not ended and that 97 percent of the population had been "liberated."

FRG'S STRAUSS MEETS WITH PRESIDENT EYADEMA

PA121417Y Paris AFP in English 1405 GMT 12 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Lome, June 12 (AFP)--Franz Josef Strauss, chairman of West Germany's Christian Social Union of Bavaria, met Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema at his residence in Pya, northern Togo, yesterday, it was learned here today. Mr Strauss is on a three-day official visit to Togo.

ANGOLA

FURTHER DETAILS OF FRONTLINE STATES' COMMUNIQUE ON NAMIBIA TALKS

LD121132Y Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 12 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Text] The frontline countries have demanded an immediate transfer of power to the Namibian people under the leadership of SWAPO during a 2-day meeting held in the capital of the People's Republic of Angola. The meeting ended late yesterday afternoon.

In a communique issued at the end of the meeting, the frontline states noted with grave concern the latest maneuvers by the racist regime of South Africa to dismember Namibia by annexing Walvis Bay. As far as this question is concerned, the final statement indicates that the frontline states have reaffirmed the principle of the territorial integrity of Namibia, and especially that Walvis Bay is not negotiable.

The frontline states appeal to the international community, and particularly the Security Council, to reaffirm the principle of the territorial integrity of Namibia, the final communique says. Also on this issue, the statement says that the frontline countries urgently demand that the Security Council take adequate measures to insure the territorial integrity of Namibia and to guarantee the early return of Walvis Bay to the territory.

On the presence in Namibia of South African troops during the transitional period, the final communique states that the frontline countries demand that individual South African forces in Namibia be placed under such conditions that they may not be used as a means of intimidation and repression of the Namibian people and of aggression against the neighboring states.

In conclusion, the frontline countries reaffirm their continued support for SWAPO and for the liberation struggle of the Namibian people.

RHODESIA

SALISBURY COMMENTS ON CARTER'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH

LD090924Y Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1610 GMT 8 Jun 78 LD/CA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Speaking in Annapolis yesterday, the United States President, Mr Carter, offered cooperation or confrontation to the Soviet Union. In what many people in southern Africa might be forgiven for mistaking as a fighting speech, Mr Carter left it up to Russia to choose the course it would follow. He said the United States is adequately prepared to respond to either choice. Brave words and very timely words from the president of a country which outsiders allege is still beating its breast with shame over the Vietnam debacle.

Whether the statement reflects a changing attitude on the part of the Democratic administration, which until very recently was led by the doves and not the hawks, is another matter. It might be that the people of the United States are gradually putting Vietnam behind them, and Mr Carter, quick to sense the change of mood, is cashing in. After all, Mr Carter has an election to face in the not-too-far-distant future, and the opinion polls have not been overoptimistic about his chances. On the other hand, Mr Carter might be reflecting a new realism in the White House in place of the woolly-headed liberalism of the Vance-Young clique.

From the moment the Carter administration took office there has been a power struggle behind the scenes. For too long the United States and the rest of the world were forced to put up with the leftist orientation exemplified by Andrew Young and Cyrus Vance. Mr Carter, ever the political comedian, personified their muddled thinking, but only as long as their star appeared to be in the ascendant. The more realistic approach which appears to have taken over indicates that the power struggle might at last be at an end and that the pragmatists, led by Dr Brzezinski, are in the saddle. It's still too early to tell, but Mr Carter's speech to navy graduates at Annapolis might be a pointer to the way things are going on Capitol Hill. If this is the case, what is left of the free world will have cause to rejoice and the embattled democracies of southern Africa may at last receive the support instead of the brickbats they expect from their allies.

SECURITY FORCES KILL 23 IN VILLAGE NEAR SALISBURY

TA112040Y Paris AFP in English 1958 GMT 11 Jun 78 TA

[Text] Johannesburg, June 11 (AFP)--At least 22 black civilians and a nationalist guerrilla were killed by Rhodesian security forces yesterday in an African village near the capital, Salisbury. Reports reaching Johannesburg said the killing took place at Mashonganyika, 12 kms (7 miles) from Salisbury, where a group of guerrillas were addressing Africans gathered in a large hut. The incident--one of the first major killings so close to the Rhodesian capital--has not yet been officially announced by the Rhodesian military high command.

Muzorewa, Sithole Reactions

PA121704Y Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 12 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Salisbury, June 12 (AFP)--Bishop Abel Muzorewa, a member of the Rhodesian interim government's Executive Council, today condemned the weekend killing of 22 [as received] black civilians and issued a five-point plan for a ceasefire in the guerrilla war tearing the country.

The 22 deaths--all but three of them women and children--occurred during a clash between Rhodesian security forces and nationalist guerrillas at Domboshawa, 20 miles north of here, last Saturday.

In a statement, Bishop Muzorewa called for the withdrawal of all Rhodesian security forces from tribal areas and urged that all tribal villages be treated as "ceasefire zones" with entry barred to troops without permission from the local chief or the "freedom fighter commander of that area".

Bishop Muzorewa's party, the United African National Council (UANC), also called for the abolition of the guard force, a military unit responsible for maintaining security in protected villages of tribal areas. The UANC statement, commenting on the guard force, said: "They are a curse to villagers."

Meanwhile, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) headed by Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, another member of the ruling Executive Council, reacted with "horror and disgust" to the weekend "massacre".

"Faced with this sad development, a thorough review by the transitional government of the whole conduct of the war is absolutely vital if our desire to end the war is genuine and honest," ZANU said.

This latest incident has caused fresh tension within the Executive Council and embarrassed the council's three black members, who are trying to arrange a ceasefire with nationalist guerrillas.

SOUTH AFRICA

SITHOLE ADDRESSES SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS CLUB

LD102101Y Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 10 Jun 78 LD/EA

[Text] The president-chairman of the Executive Council and leader of ZANU, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, says only naked brutal dictatorship can possibly reverse the Salisbury Agreement. Speaking in Cape Town tonight, he said a reversal of the accord can only succeed at great cost of human life, because Rhodesians will consider themselves less than human if they do not defend that agreement with their very lives.

Mr Sithole, in an address to the Press Club of South Africa, said he believes objectively and subjectively that there is nothing in this world that can reverse the Salisbury Agreement. He added that only those who live in Rhodesia-Zimbabwe have the final say in the agreement, because they are the ones who have to live under its terms. Foreigners don't have to.

Mr Sithole said the agreement was negotiated by blacks and whites in an atmosphere of equality, freedom of speech and thought. He added: It is an agreement that is far superior to any external agreement. It will be grounded, rooted, anchored and (?buoyed) in the very souls of all Rhodesians.

NAMIBIA (SOUTH-WEST AFRICA)

SWAPO EXPELS 11 FOR 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY' PLOTTING

PA091652Y Paris AFP in French 1616 GMT 9 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Lusaka, 9 June (AFP)--The Central Committee of the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO] decided on Friday in Lusaka to expel 11 of its members who are charged with trying to topple SWAPO President Sam Nujoma and with committing five crimes.

The charges were revealed in a public statement issued in Lusaka. It accuses the 11 members of having "organized and led a counterrevolutionary plot to sabotage the liberation struggle."

The members are Andreas Shipanga, former information secretary; Solomon Mifima, Andreas Nuukwawo, Fillemon Moongo, Martin Tenani, Sheeli Shangula, Nathaniel Keshi, Immanuel Engombe, Jimmy Ampala, Ndeshi Uyumba and Sakaria Shikomba.

In addition, they are accused of acting "in collusion with certain imperialist Western countries to sabotage the political and military struggle of the Namibian people against the illegal South African regime." They are also accused of having planned "to assassinate a number of SWAPO leaders and comrades."

SWAPO DENOUNCES PARIS SUMMIT ON AFRICA

LD121054Y Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 9 Jun 78 LD/CA

[Text] The South-West African People's Organization, SWAPO, today denounced the NATO conference in Paris on the security of Africa and said it was aimed at rescuing the racist regimes in southern Africa.

SWAPO secretary for information and publicity, Mr Peter (Kachavivi), said in a press statement in Lusaka today that the Paris meeting was a calculated device to advance in scale and scope NATO's involvement in the continent by capitalizing on the recent happenings.

Mr (Kachavivi) expressed surprise that the NATO powers have now found it fit to debate the security of Africa when, in fact, racist regimes that have at all times threatened the security of Africa have never been discussed. We have never heard of the Western powers meeting to discuss the security of Africa to plot the removal of the rebel regimes in Zimbabwe or the racist South African occupation of Namibia. Now all of a sudden, he added, the Western powers are feverishly excited about expanding their influence under the guise of defending Africa.

ZAMBIA

KAUNDA OFFERS TO HELP SOLVE SHABA PROBLEM

PA121543Y Paris AFP in English 1330 GMT 12 Jun 78 PA

[Text] Lusaka, June 12 (AFP)--Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda today offered to help find a "peaceful solution" to the problems of Zaire's mineral-rich Shaba Province, but said Zambia would not allow or support "any force that will lead to the division of Africa."

Observers took this to be a reference to the inter-African force currently assembled in Shaba.

President Kaunda told the national committee of his ruling United National Independence Party that Zambia believed in the need for a "lasting solution" to Shaba and was prepared to play "any role if it should suit Zaire."

Referring to troubles in Rhodesia and Namibia as well as Zaire, Mr Kaunda said that Africa was becoming a "battlefield for international forces" in an "atmosphere reminiscent of the Cold War."

He said: "Weapons of the East and of the West are starting to play a key role in determining international security in central and southern Africa. Free Africa must not allow their contingent to become an international football pitch in which any nation can practice the art of war."

He added: "We must work to de-internationalise African problems in the spirit of the Organization of African Unity Charter."

At the same time, however, Mr Kaunda warned that should Zambia become the victim of aggression backed by South Africa, he reserved the right to call on "any friendly nation" for help.

He appealed to the various factions involved in the Rhodesian dispute to get together round a conference table and repeated his support for the Anglo-American settlement proposals which he saw as the only ones likely to lead to a peaceful solution.

Mr Kaunda also said the five Western nation plan for Namibian settlement provided a "positive basis" for a solution and "deserves our support." The plan has been drawn up by Britain, France, West Germany, Canada and the United States.

But, he warned: "Should these negotiations fail because of South Africa's intransigence, we pledge to continue our support for SWAPO (South-West African People's Organisation) in the armed struggle till victory is won."

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